



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,797	04/09/2004	Roy E. Lowrance	05793.3130	8723
22852 7590 05/04/2007 FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER KIM, PAUL	
			ART UNIT 2161	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/04/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/820,797	Applicant(s) LOWRANCE ET AL.	
	Examiner Paul Kim	Art Unit 2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-11,22,24,26-32,43,45 and 47-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-11,22,24,26-32,43,45 and 47-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____</p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
|--|--|

Art Unit: 2161

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed on 12 February 2007.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 22, 24, 26-32, 43, 45, and 47-53 are pending in this application.
3. Claims 1, 5, 6, 22, 26, 27, 43, 47, 48, and 52 have been amended.
4. Claims 2, 4, 12-21, 23, 25, 33-42, 44, 46, and 54-63 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. **Claims 1-9, 22-30, and 43-51** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hillis et al (USPGPUB 2003/0196094, hereinafter referred to as HILLIS), filed on 6 November 2002, and published on 16 October 2003.

7. **As per independent claims 1, 22 and 43**, HILLIS teaches:

A method for generating verifiable reported information, the method comprising:

retrieving report information from a central data repository using one or more query statements {See HILLIS, [0198], wherein this reads over "[t]hey provide data access via standard protocols such as . . . SQL queries"};

generating a report using the report information {See HILLIS, [0400-0401]};

Art Unit: 2161

generating a hash based on ingredient data related to the generation of the report {See HILLIS, [0242], wherein this reads over "[w]hen a data object is registered in the system, its type and content are used to generate a fast, unique hash value, which is used as the aforementioned index into the registry"}, wherein the ingredient data comprises

the report information {See HILLIS, [0245], wherein this reads over "a hash table entry contains a data identifier 110 describing the data object's type, length, and one or more representations of the object's data"},

the one or more query statements {See HILLIS, [0300], wherein this reads over "data objects only have one segment, but it is possible to spread the representation of an object across multiple segments. For each segment, the data identifier contains information denoting how to find a string of bits that represent a part of the data object" and "the segment may be specified by a query made to a database"}, and

at least one of a date and time the report was generated {See HILLIS, [0116], wherein this reads over "[s]everal annotations to an explanation, topic, path, or annotation may be added automatically at the time of creation, such as those identifying the creation date"; [0245], wherein this reads over "[t]he hash table entry also contains a metadata identifier 113, which includes an indication of the annotations of the data object"} and

a version of the report information {See HILLIS, [0116], wherein this reads over "[s]everal annotations to an explanation, topic, path, or annotation may be added automatically at the time of creation, such as those identifying . . . language};

storing the hash and the ingredient data in an ingredient database, the hash being associated with the ingredient data in the ingredient database {See HILLIS, [0242], wherein this reads over "[t]his hash value is used to identify and register the data object into the registry and is used as the index in the registry's hash table"; and

outputting the report, the report including the report information and a copy of the generated hash stored in the database {See HILLIS, [0240], wherein this reads over "[t]he registry is a distributed, hierarchical directory of information describing nodes and links of the labeled graph"; and [0400], wherein this reads over "documents may be made public for purposes of authenticating them, without actually publishing the content thereof"}, wherein the stored hash and the ingredient data may be subsequently accessed using the copy of the hash included in the report to verify the report information.

Additionally, wherein the last method step of the above claim recites "may be subsequently accessed," it is noted that the accessing of the stored hash and the ingredient data is optionally recited.

8. As per dependent claims 2, 23 and 44, HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the report using report information stored in an application database {See HILLIS, [0198], wherein this reads over "[a] potentially very large number of data servers store the underlying data and metadata"}.

9. As per dependent claims 3, 24 and 45, HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the report using a software application remotely executable over a network {See HILLIS, Figure 3}.

Art Unit: 2161

10. As per dependent claims 5, 26 and 47, HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more query statements comprises at least one of a structured query language (SQL) statement and a data access language statement {See HILLIS, [0198], wherein this reads over "[t]hey provide data access via standard protocols such as . . . SQL queries"}.

11. As per dependent claims 7, 28 and 49, HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 1, wherein the ingredient data indicates how the report was generated {See HILLIS, [0245], wherein this reads over "[a]long with the index hash and signature, a hash table entry contains a data identifier 110 describing the data object's type, length, and one or more representations of the object's data 111, 112. The hash table entry also contains a metadata identifier 113, which includes an indication of the annotations of the data object"}.

12. As per dependent claims 8, 29 and 50, HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 1, wherein the report comprises at least one of a graph, a chart, a table {See HILLIS, [0242], wherein this reads over "[t]his hash value is used to identify and register the data object into the registry and is used as the index in the registry's hash table"}, a spreadsheet, a word processing file, a presentation file, and a text file.

13. As per dependent claims 9, 30 and 51, HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the report further comprises providing an electronic copy of the report including a verifiable digital signature {See HILLIS, [0244], wherein this reads over "each hash table entry contains an index hash 68, an optional cryptographically strong signature for verification and security, a data identifier, and a metadata identifier"; [0400], wherein this reads over "documents may be made public for purposes of authenticating them, without actually publishing the content thereof"}.

14. As per dependent claims 10, 31 and 52, HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 9, wherein the electronic copy of the report is configured to include a user selectable element wherein a module configured to verify the digital signature included with the electronic copy of the report is executed when the user selectable element is selected {See HILLIS, [0381], wherein this reads over "[s]ubsequent users of the submitted content can then authenticate the content locally, by computing a hash using the publicly available algorithm, and comparing the hash obtained to the hash associated with the content"}.

15. As per dependent claims 11, 32 and 53, HILLIS teaches:

The method of claim 10, wherein the module is remotely executable over a network {See HILLIS, [0379], wherein this reads over "[t]he computation of the hash may be performed either by the registry computer system or the computer system of the individual submitting the content"}.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. **Claims 6, 27, and 48** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over HILLIS, in view of Official Notice.

18. **As per dependent claims 6, 27, and 48**, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that a query statement format would be based upon ASCII, EBCDIC, Unicode, or other character strings, CSV, SGML, SML, HTML, PDF, JPEG, GIF, word processing document format, a spreadsheet file format, and a presentation file format.

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments filed 12 February 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

20. Applicant asserts that Figure 2 of Hillis et al illustrates a data object as "a particular piece of data, such as a particular text, Web page, or picture" but that said illustration does not constitute disclosing a "report" (See Amendment, pages 13-14). It is noted that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily see that a "report" containing "report information" may be interpreted and construed broadly to the extent that data objects such as legal documents would be considered a report.

Additionally, Applicant asserts the argument that "Hillis et al. also does not disclose pieces of data that are retrieved from a central data repository and used to generate the report" (See Amendment, page 14). It is noted that Hillis et al discloses the allowance of "search engines and automatic indexers to match objects with particular characteristics" {See HILLIS, [0227]} such that user annotations and

Art Unit: 2161

document metadata regarding the content may be used in querying data objects. Accordingly, the returned data object would constitute the generation of the report (i.e. the data object) using the report information (i.e. "user annotations" and "document metadata"). Thus, Hillis discloses appropriately discloses the method step of "generating a report using report information retrieved from a centralized data repository."

Additionally, Applicant asserts the argument that Hillis et al. fails to disclose "outputting the report, the report including the report information and a copy of the generated hash stored in the database." {See Amendment ,page 15}. The Examiner respectfully disagrees in the Hillis et al discloses an aspect of the invention wherein modifications to data objects may be authenticated by certifying signatures to annotations. Accordingly, said signatures, which contain "the data object type and content" {See HILLIS, [0297]}, would read upon "a copy of the generated hash stored in the database" since said signatures are also stored within the hash table entry as well as the data object.

Lastly, Applicant asserts arguments directed to newly recited claim language. Applicant is directed to the portions of the prior art as cited by the Examiner in the rejections of claims 1, 22, and 43.

Conclusion

21. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2161

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Apu Mofiz can be reached on (571) 272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Paul Kim
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2161
TECH Center 2100



SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER